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PROGRAM News

STATION WTOP Radio

DATE May 11, 1971

11:20 PM

CITY Washington, DC

RICHARD HELMS MAY HEAD NEW INTELLIGENCE STAFF

JAMIE BRAGG: White House officials confirmed today that President Nixon is studying recommendations to tighten up the nation's foreign intelligence operations under a civilian director and to improve their global spying and cut costs at the same time.

The Chief Executive's expected to act on a report which has been in the White House for two months now, to give him a range of options on reorganizing the foreign intelligence activities now dispersed over five major separate agencies.

The report, covering 30 to 40 typewritten pages, was prepared by James Schlesinger, Assistant Director of the Office of Management of Budget. He's formerly a member of the Rand Corporation "Think Tank."

Nixon instructed his staff at the beginning of December to draft this study which would include several options to get a better handle on government foreign intelligence operations.

He was motivated by the high costs of overall intelligence, about five billion dollars a year, the overlapping of the spy network, and the occasions when the White House has been faced with wrong intelligence.

Officials said that Nixon is high on Richard Helms, Director of the CIA, and that Helms may be tapped to head a new White House intelligence staff.

Helms, apparently with the White House blessing, made a speech before the American Society of Newspaper Editors last week (sic). He was accorded unusual exposure for an official in that position.

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